

Abstract of the Disclosure

A cradle for accepts a portable communications device (PCD) that is normally in radio communication with a first network. The cradle couples the accepted PCD to the first network by way of a second network when the PCD is out of radio communication with the first network. The PCD includes an externally accessible port from which communications data is accessible, and the cradle is sized to accept the PCD. The cradle has a port connector for coupling with the externally accessible port of the accepted PCD, a network connector for coupling the cradle and by extension the PCD to the second network, and a network communications device for interfacing between the port connector and the network connector.